

The Builder

A Journal For The Masonic Student

Published Monthly by the National Masonic Research Society


VOLUME VIII
NUMBER 1

January, 1922

TWO DOLLARS FIFTY CENTS THE YEAR
TWENTY-FIVE CENTS THE COPY

The Lincoln Memorial

BY THE EDITOR

 IN 1911 the Congress of the United States appointed a commission to erect in the city of Washington a suitable memorial to Abraham Lincoln. President William Howard Taft was made chairman. By the time these words appear in print the Memorial will have been opened to the public.

The Commission chose as chief architect Henry Bacon. Mr. Bacon selected as his co-workers Daniel Chester French, who was given charge of all sculpturing; and Jules Guerin, who was appointed to make the mural paintings. From the very first these three artists, each of international distinction in his field, worked in a spirit of unity so complete that it sets at naught the cheap canards about the temperamental egotisms of such men. Each linked hands with the other two, and the three together, after years of daily familiarity with the mind and soul of Lincoln, at last produced a new parthenon which will remain in the long hereafter of this nation an adequate and appropriate monument of him who is the chief treasure of these people.

The building stands in Potomac Park on a line due east and west with the Capitol and the Washington Monument. There is nothing of vulgar display about it, and it cost only about two million dollars, but every stone in it has been selected and wrought with loving care. Down to the last workman the great undertaking has come to completion unmarred by break or accident: there was no strike; no man was killed, or even seriously injured; not even when the great caissons were sunk beneath the ground, or when the twenty-three ton

stones were brought from their quarries in the Colorado mountains. Artists and workmen wrought together in the fraternal spirit of the ancient guilds, as though the kindly and human presence of Lincoln himself were somehow real to every one of them.

The building is simple but impressive. The key to it is unity expressed through beauty and preserved in majesty. It is lovely to see from whatever point one may behold it, and the view from the old home of Robert E. Lee, as the writer himself will ever remember, is singularly appealing, especially as one bears in mind how much alike in soul were the two heroes whose paths diverged so widely. It is good to know that a bridge is planned to connect the site of the Memorial with the opposite shore, thus bringing the old north and the old south visibly and symbolically together, as they really are in these new times.

The central and dominating space in the Memorial building is reserved entirely for the great statue which has received from Lord Charnwood, the distinguished English biographer of Lincoln, the encomium of being the statue. It exhibits Lincoln as President, filled with unobtrusive but conscious power, a man who has grown up to his almost superhuman tasks, who neither shrinks nor blusters, and who easily passes from repose to action. The hands are expressive of capacity, but finely human; the feet are a little drawn together, as they always are in moments of urgent thought; the clothing is that of a man who cared little for the vanities, but who was not slovenly; and the great sculpturesque head, with its wide but sunken eyes, its familiar beard and its deep lines, is that of the veridical man,

unspoiled by any attempt on the part of the sculptor to appeal to us by melodramatic exaggeration. The real Lincoln was not a man of over soft sentimentality and melancholy, with a weak body, but one consciously strong, whose secret was his magnificent mental power, and it is this Lincoln that inhabits the great Memorial.

The Gettysburg Address and the Second Inaugural are engraved in the walls. Their spirit and idea are translated into paintings by Guerin, and altogether speak the same word, that this man, who was neither a demi-god nor a demagogue, somehow embodied in

himself that which this nation most seriously reverences in its secret soul.

The building as a whole, with its trees, its gradings and terraces, will become one of our national treasures, along with the Capitol and the House of the Temple. It is unspoiled by any exotic appeal, or by that which is merely flashy, temporary, and popular. It is, as John Hay said it should be, "isolated, distinguished and serene." To eulogize it is as vulgar as it is to eulogize the man whose name it has been set to commemorate forever.

OVERSEAS MASONIC CLUBS

BY BRO. CHARLES F. IRWIN, OHIO



ONE of the valuable labors of the Overseas Masonic Mission was its energetic campaign to secure the names and records of Military Masonic Clubs. Unfortunately but a few of the itinerant clubs were secured. Unless some active member of each of these clubs volunteers to forward the name and history of his organization Masonic Club its record will be forever lost. Many of these clubs had an existence and did a splendid work. It is to be hoped that a movement may be started to preserve their records with those already registered.

These clubs in the Roster of the Overseas Masonic Commission are not chronologically placed. The oldest in time I have discovered in my search is the Knights of the Forest No. 102, Masonic Club. This club was within the 102d Regiment F. A. Its officers were designated as Chief-of-Section, Caisson Corporal, and Gunners. The club was organized at a camp in Brittany, on Oct. 30, 1917, during the final training for active service. As a part of the 26th Division, this regiment saw active service and the members of this Masonic Club acquitted themselves in true Masonic manner.

Most of the clubs were in permanent camps, depots, and headquarters cities. They were officered by brethren from high and low military rank, and from among welfare workers. One club—Gondrecourt Masonic Club, A. P. O. 703—was officered by Salvation Army men—R. M. Dilley and a brother Hale. These brethren together with other brethren working in this welfare organization did an active Masonic work for the Craft.

The following roster is as complete as any yet attempted by any Masonic writer. It comprises the list secured by the Overseas Masonic Mission together with names of clubs secured by the writer through various channels. The rosters of these clubs are mostly in the

American E. F. Masonic Club	Marseilles, A. P. O. 752
Pres., C. M. Conant, Y. M. C. A.	Sec'y, F. G. Redwine, A. P. M.
Acacia Club	Tours, A. P. O. 717
Pres., Lt. Col. G. E. Newell	Sec'y, _____
American Masonic Club	LeMans, A. P. O. 762
Pres., Harry B. Meek	Sec'y, _____
American Masonic Club of Beaune	A. P. O. 909
Pres., Maj. Hotchkiss	Sec'y, A. Peterson, Y. M. C. A.
Acacia Club, 110th Eng., Brest	A. P. O. 716
Pres., O. W. McLanahan	Sec'y, A. L. Moon
Masonic Club of Brest	A. P. O. 716
Pres., C. J. Irwin, Y. M. C. A.	Sec'y, H. H. Wallman
Masonic Club of 503rd Eng.	Pontex-les-Forges
Pres., Sgt. H. Stevenson	Sec'y, Pvt. L. C. Bowes
Masonic Society, Infantry School	Clamecy, A. P. O. 786
Pres., Maj. S. A. Merrill	Sec'y, H. C. Bishop
Masonic Club, 114 Field Sig. Bn.	Souilly
Chrm., J. Cornish	Sec'y, W. C. Soab
Masonic Club, Evac. Hosp. 1	Toul
Pres., _____	Sec'y, Lt. H. B. Pool
Masonic Club, Camp Hosp. 26	A. P. O. 727
Pres., Capt. C. B. Winn	Sec'y, B. Ettinger
Masonic Club, Base Hosp. 63	A. P. O. 738
Pres., _____	Sec'y, _____
Masonic Club of Vichy	Base Hosp. Center 5
Pres., _____	Sec'y, _____
Masonic Club of Verneuil	A. P. O. 772
Pres., Capt. Van Hise	Sec'y, _____
Middle West Masonic Club	3d Amer. Army, Germ'y
Pres., _____	Sec'y, C. C. Kusick
Masonic Club, Lamadon De Bains	A. P. O. _____
Pres., _____	Sec'y, — Ferguson, Y. M. C. A.
Masonic Club of Camp Meucon	A. P. O. 779
Pres., W. E. Hunter, Y. M. C. A.	Sec'y, A. Wilson, Y. M. C. A.
Montoir Masonic Club	A. P. O. 701
Pres., Chaplain C. F. Irwin	Sec'y, Charles J. Novak
Montrichard Masonic Club	Montrichard
Pres., _____	Sec'y, Lt. Wilkes, Q. M. C.
Masonic Club of Angers	A. P. O. 733
Pres., Maj. V. A. Hall	Sec'y, Lt. H. G. Finley
Nettal Masonic Club	A. P. O. 740
Pres., Lt. Col. S. B. Philpot	Sec'y, _____
140th F. A. Masonic Club	Doubs
Pres., Chas. O. Jasp, Jr.	Sec'y, C. B. Jones
Peyru Masonic Club	A. P. O. 749